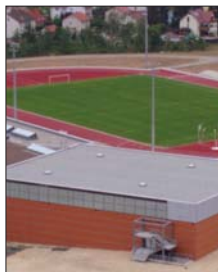


**Grafenwoehr
Fitness Center
shaping up**

Page 5



**Oktoberfest,
local fetes
and festal fare**

Pages 6 and 7



**Legal guide
for living
in Germany**

Pages 8 to 10



TRAINING TIMES

Vol. 26 No. 18

Serving the 100th Area Support Group communities of Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

Sept. 13, 2005

Help victims of hurricane

IMA-EUROPE PRESS RELEASE

Having watched the catastrophe of Katrina unfold, Soldiers, civilians and family members have inquired as to how they can help her victims. Many have been eager to conduct charity drives themselves. Be aware, however, that fund-raising activities on military installations must be approved by the area support group or base support battalion commander.

Others think of collecting canned goods and clothing. Their initiative is well-intended, but no infrastructure for receiving such items exists in this devastated region. Simply making a monetary donation is therefore the best way to help.

Funding relief

The Red Cross offices in Grafenwoehr, Vilseck and Hohenfels are accepting donations. Checks and money orders should be made payable to the American Red Cross Disaster Fund. Contributions may also be given online at www.redcross.org. As of Sept. 9, this institution had opened 675 shelters, served more than 6 million hot meals and amassed \$503 million for the cause.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency suggests organizations that accept donations and use these funds locally, helping businesses in the area and transporting necessities more quickly. A list of possibilities is available at www.fema.gov/press/2005/resources_katrina.shtml.

Finding victims

The Red Cross has minimized the number of disaster welfare

inquiries that it will process at present. This is normal immediately after a storm of this magnitude, as every worker is busy assisting the more immediate needs of shelter and helping with rescue efforts. Looking for loved ones is beyond their current capabilities.

Those searching for someone are encouraged to leave their names and phone numbers with their local Red Cross office, so that as soon as this order is lifted, the staff can initiate a message. Phone 475-1760, 476-1760 or 466-1760.

The organization also encourages people to try reaching loved ones themselves – even if they have been unsuccessful thus far – or designating a relative in the United States to do so.

The latest Red Cross releases are posted at its "Press Room" link (see Web site, above). These describe the state of affairs in the region and offer suggestions as to how people there can advise their family of their whereabouts and conditions.

Army Knowledge Online announced its Hurricane Katrina Information Center Sept. 1. Log on to www.us.army.mil and click on the link for updates and announcements aimed at military personnel.

Getting through

Packages and letters can still be sent to the region, but because of evacuations and severe damage at U.S. Postal Service facilities, Express Mail is not available there at this time. For more information about delivery in affected areas, visit www.usps.com or inquire at your community Army Post Office.



Photo by Alice Adler

Learning verve

Hohenfels middle- and high-schoolers stream out after their first full day of classes Aug. 31. Students from throughout the 100th Area Support Group went back to school last month.

Q&A

When 'Training Times' asked, "What's the best present you've ever gotten?" we received a wealth of responses.



Christian Civile
"A \$10,000 check
from my grandparents"



Rosey Normand
"A blank cookbook,
because I love to cook"



Adam Best
"My daughter, Abigail"



Cameron Brannon
"Spider-Man mask and gloves"



Laurie Sutton
"The gift of salvation"

Interviews and photos by Alice Adler

Thoughts while moving around

On construction, consideration

BY COL. BRIAN BOYLE
100TH AREA SUPPORT GROUP COMMANDER

As I stated two weeks ago, this column is one of my many means to keep the community informed. So without further delay, here are a few things that have cropped up lately.

Force protection

During the July town hall meeting, we told the community that we expected the renovations at the Vilseck Post Exchange food court to be finished by the end of September. Since then, we have found out that an inner wall, which did not meet force protection standards, must be replaced and that some of the new glass did not meet all of the criteria. Therefore, the new projected date of completion is sometime in November. I appreciate the hassles of parking and being unable to move directly between the commissary and the PX and ask for your continued patience while we work toward these force protection requirements.

As part of our remediation plan, the gate near Burger King in Grafenwoehr has been closed, as many of you will have noticed. We are currently "curing" the concrete at this gate and expect it to reopen this week. Thanks to all for using gate 7 during this renovation process.

Noise

Most of you know that there are



noise limitations within the communities. These guidelines cover vehicles as well as homes. Based on recent blotter reports, however, not everyone is getting the message.

With respect to automobiles, while you may enjoy your music, not everyone else does. People outside of your car should not have your preferences inflicted upon them.

As for homes, though they are stationary, noise is not. In this country, where most people do not have air-conditioning, they often leave their windows open. Thus, their music and conversations travel freely. I like parties as much as the next person, but these rules are in place to ensure that all community members can live at peace with one another.

I'd ask each of you to show courtesy for your neighbors by observing the established quiet hours: from 10 every evening

until 6 the next morning, weekdays and weekends. The military police can and will enforce these measures with tickets – but we ought never allow it to reach that point. Please respect the space of others. And watch the quality of your music; children should not be learning "new words" based on the songs they hear coming from another house.

Missions

Hohenfels just completed an MRX for a unit from 1st Armored Division, and some of their units are moving to Grafenwoehr for gunnery training. As you might expect, noise levels will likely increase as they prepare for their Global War on Terrorism mission. I'd also ask all to be aware of the numerous armored vehicles around, because we don't need any accidents.

The 3rd Brigade drawdown continues in Vilseck, where we are also planning reunion-and-reintegration training for the 94th Engineer Battalion. Hard to believe for some, but that unit's second tour is already more than halfway done.

As 18th Corps Support Battalion in Grafenwoehr gets ready to move out, we wish all of them a safe and successful deployment and rededicate ourselves to providing always quality support for their family members and the rest of the 100th Area Support Group communities.

HISSES

AND

HURRAHS

Hurrah to the *Training Times* for a great article about Hohenfels: *Post habitat for Grizzlies, Vipers – and Vampires* [Aug. 30]. You just forgot to mention the Dragons, part of the Vampire observer-controller team.

Stephanie Stroell
AFN Bavaria

Hiss to Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials who want to sell state lottery tickets, as reported in this morning's *Stars and Stripes* [Editor's note: Sept. 10 edition]. So they "want a piece of

that action" because they aren't making enough money on their slot machines? What a shame! At least I live in Europe. Maybe it will be a few years before they can start doing it here. Until then, I guess they will just have to get by on their other gambling revenues and find new ways to take Soldiers' money.

Mack Adams
Vilseck

Hurrah to the Hurricanes, a team of young swimmers from Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr, who spent Labor Day weekend in Vicenza, Italy,

where they competed successfully against the Aviano Tiburones and the Sigonella Swordfish.

Ed.

Submissions to *Hisses and Hurrahs* should be sent via e-mail to the editor at cara.matlock@graf.eur.army.mil, or faxed to 475-7935. Please include a brief description of the episode, along with your name and community, a telephone number or e-mail address, and the name of the person you deem worthy of mention, if known. Identities of those to be censured or criticized should not be revealed. We wish to invoke only private shame, not public stonings.

Training Times

Training Times is an unofficial biweekly publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial views are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. The paper is an offset publication prepared and edited by the 100th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office. *Training Times* is printed by *Stars & Stripes* and distributed every other Tuesday. Circulation is 6,000 copies. Submissions are welcome. Send letters to the editor and commentaries to PAO, Unit 28130, Attn: *Training Times*, APO AE 09114, or e-mail them to cara.matlock@graf.eur.army.mil. Telephone the *Training Times* at 475-7113 or fax to 475-7935 with story ideas and events.

100th ASG Commander

Col. Brian Boyle

100th ASG Public Affairs Officer

Kathleen Gibbs (475-8103)

Command Information Chief

Nick D'Amario (475-6417)

Editor

Cara Matlock (475-7113)

Hohenfels Correspondent

Alice Adler (466-2479)

Grafenwoehr and Vilseck

Correspondent

Kathy Jordan (476-1600)

Sexual assault victims given more options

BY JASON AUSTIN

U.S. ARMY EUROPE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Soldiers who have suffered sexual assaults have more choice when reporting these incidents and seeking medical attention, under a new Army policy.

Rosalind Dennis, sexual assault prevention and response program manager for the U.S. Army Europe G-1, explained the changes during the annual Equal Opportunity conference in Garmisch, Germany, Aug. 21 to 26.

Dennis said that many sexual crimes went unreported because victims feared they would have to repeat their story during medical treatment, police investigations and legal proceedings. Moreover, they often feared embarrassment or shame, reprisal by the perpetrator, or blame from others.

Soldiers now have two options when reporting a sexual assault: restricted and unrestricted.

Restricted reporting allows the victim to disclose the details confidentially to specific people and get medical care,

counseling and advocacy without triggering an investigation.

Unrestricted reporting involves current channels — the chain of command, law enforcement, a brigade-level sexual assault response coordinator or the on-call victim advocate — and will result in an official investigation of the allegation, as well as medical treatment and counseling. When the assault is reported, a battalion-level victim advocate will immediately be notified. Benefits of this method include prosecution of the offender and chain-of-command support for the victim.

According to Dennis, restricted reporting was introduced so that victims who did not want additional attention might receive health care and counseling. She pointed out that any forensic data collected during treatment would be stored for one year, giving a victim the option of pursuing criminal charges later.

Normally, however, incidents will not be investigated under restricted reporting. A sexual assault response coordinator will

notify command officials of the allegation within 24 hours, without details that could reasonably lead to identification of the victim. For that reason, one who chooses this method may talk only to chaplains, personnel at medical treatment facilities, victim advocates for the installation or unit, and sexual assault response coordinators.

Soldiers who speak with someone other than those listed above will eliminate the possibility for restricted reporting, and investigative procedures will begin. Victims who wish to use this option are therefore encouraged to seek out victim advocates, medical treatment or support from a chaplain immediately after such a crime occurs. They are also advised not to wash themselves or change clothing before going to a medical facility, as this would destroy evidence.

Each community and battalion is required to have trained personnel available for Soldiers. Installation victim advocates and sexual assault response coordinators are part of the Family Advocacy Program at

local Army Community Service offices.

Every battalion commander must designate two Soldiers or civilians to perform victim advocacy duties for the unit. Deployable sexual assault response coordinators are Soldiers or civilians who can act as executive agents at the brigade level or higher.

In USAREUR, Soldiers can call the sexual assault hot lines — DSN 371-3550/3551 or toll free 00800-0-ASSAULT (277-2858) any time an incident occurs.

The hope, Dennis said, is that these new policies will create a “climate that is comfortable for victims to come forward to receive the medical and advocacy services they need and provide commanders with a more accurate view of the sexual assault incidents occurring in their units.”

Sexual crimes are the second most reported in USAREUR, after those related to drugs. Dennis said that ideally, education and training would diminish the number of sexual assaults, but that when they did occur, immediate response and long-term support for victims were paramount.

In brief

Caution: clarification

In the Aug. 30 edition, an article about motorcycle safety might have implied to some readers that helmets were merely recommended gear.

According to Maj. Robert Ray, 100th Area Support Group provost marshal, however, all motorcyclists within U.S. Army Europe must wear a helmet approved by either the U.S. Department of Transportation or the German “ECE.”

Ray, who is also director of emergency services for Grafenwoehr and Vilseck, stressed that all riders were required to wear brightly colored clothing during the day and reflective material at night as well. He added that the greatest number of citations had been issued to improperly dressed motorcyclists.

Moves, closures

- Service Credit Union in Hohenfels has relocated to building 335, next to the PXtra.
- Grafenwoehr Law Center will be closed Sept. 22.
- The following agencies in building 700 on Vilseck will be closed Sept. 23 and 26: transition center, travel finance, finance in- and out-processing, finance transitions, personnel IOP, and finance customer service.

Writers wanted

The *Training Times* is seeking writer/editors for Grafenwoehr and Vilseck.

Applicants for these nonpersonal services contract positions should be able to work 20 to 40 hours per week. Excellent writing skills are required, and experience in digital photography and desktop-publishing programs, such as Pagemaker or Quark XPress, would be ideal.

Those interested should e-mail a résumé, accompanied by a cover letter and three writing samples, to Kathleen Gibbs, U.S. Army Garrison–Grafenwoehr public affairs officer, at kathleen.gibbs@graf.eur.army.mil.

ASG makes Kontakt at conclave

BY PFC. MATTHIS CHIROUX

U.S. ARMY EUROPE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Local chapters of Kontakt, the club founded to foster friendship between Germans and Americans, took home numerous honors from the 21st annual conference and awards ceremony, Aug. 6 to 10 at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch, Germany.

During the conference, members from throughout the country toured Linderhof castle, viewed the Alps, and gathered in a local *Gasthof* for a Bavarian meal to the accompaniment of folk dancing, accordion playing and yodeling.

This year, the event had a more serious side too, as attendees discussed the future of their organization, in light of recently announced troop withdrawals.

“Some clubs seem pretty worried about the base closures,” said Capt. Emmit Osborne, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 279th Base Support Battalion, and head of the Bamberg chapter. “The Kontakt leadership, however, does not foresee the closures as being much of a problem, as Kontakt has survived and flourished in areas that have long since lost their active military presence, such as Berlin and Nuremberg.”

The awards ceremony Aug. 9 began with a performance by The Encores, a new choral group composed of women from the Grafenwoehr Kontakt Club. Afterward, Brig. Gen. Russell Frutiger, deputy chief of staff for U.S. Army Europe G-1, emphasized the command’s commitment to supporting

chapters nationwide.

“Thank you for what you do to further the relations between our two great nations,” Frutiger told the assembly. “No matter what happens over the next decade, there is one thing I know for sure: The German and American friendship will continue to grow.”

He then presented awards, several of which went to those from the 100th Area Support Group.

The Grafenwoehr chapter captured three: community action, funds and fund raising, and special programs. Hohenfels was cited for its achievement in public relations, and Vilseck took the category for a special single event.

Members honored were Lothar Gogolka, Renate Gradl, Clint and Judy Jarard, John Ramsey, and Franz Weidner of Grafenwoehr; Gabriele and Jimmy Frazao, Petra Neumeier, Irmgard and Karl Scharl, and Julie Smith of Hohenfels; and Sgt. Kenneth Chancey, Matthias Kuehnle, Maria Scherf, and Alexander Schmidt of Vilseck.

Non-members recognized from this area were Conny Camerer and 1st Sgt. Verlene Dickson for Grafenwoehr, and Neville Paschall and the former 409th BSB Public Affairs Office for Vilseck.

Josef Buday of the nearby Amberg chapter also merited an individual award.

The Kontakt Club was started in the mid-1960s by Jeanne Jones, then a public affairs specialist for USAREUR. In 1973, the German government honored her with a *Bundesverdienstkreuz 1 Klasse* — its highest award for civilians — in recognition of service to her country. Jones, 82, died in January at her home near Heidelberg.

To become involved with Kontakt, call Melvin Gonzales at 475-7441 for information about the Vilseck chapter, Franz Zeilmann at 475-8885 in Grafenwoehr, Joe and Rita Roberts at 09645-601294 in Amberg, or Christina Wilson at 466-4294 in Hohenfels.



Photo by Gerald Morgenstern

The Encores of Grafenwoehr sing during the Kontakt Club awards ceremony, Aug. 9 at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch, Germany. The three chapters of the 100th Area Support Group were each cited for high achievement.



Photo by Kathy Jordan

Schoolchildren sing during a teacher-appreciation luncheon in Grafenwoehr.

PWOC thanks with Bavarian spread

BY KATHY JORDAN
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

Teachers at Grafenwoehr Elementary School got a taste of German specialties during a welcome luncheon hosted by the local Protestant Women of the Chapel chapter Aug. 25.

According to member Deidra Witherspoon, honoring teachers has been part of the PWOC mission for 25 years, and the annual luncheon is a way to treat them. "Teachers do a lot for our kids," Witherspoon pointed out. "Sometimes it's nice to give back to our teachers. ... They go away for the summer, they are out of our sight, but they are always in our hearts ... and we wanted to do this to set the year off right."

Because the event also serves as an introduction for newcomers, this year it focused on Bavaria, the region they now call home.

"Some teachers are new — this will be their first year teaching here in Germany," Witherspoon explained. "We wanted to teach them about where they are and some of the culture, because we are part of not just the Army community, but the whole Bavarian community as well."

Martina Bias, the *Training Times* food columnist who was born and raised near Coburg, helped to plan the menu. She described her choices as things "one might not order at a *Gasthaus*, because one is not familiar with them — *Weisswurst*, *Leberkaese* and *Obatzter*; for example — along with German breads, salads, desserts and drinks."

As entertainment, 32 first- through sixth-graders who were participating in the PWOC's outreach music camp that week sang *Quick to Listen, Slow to Speak* from *Dr. Newheart's Neck-Up Checkup*, a musical by Kathie Hill. Director Karen Hearn said she felt that number had been particularly appropriate for the occasion.

"In school, the kids learn that they need to listen more than they speak, and what better place to practice that than at the school?" she asked rhetorically. "I thought the teachers might enjoy hearing that song."

Maj. Chuck Rizer, chaplain, joined the PWOC in paying tribute to those who spend their days molding young minds.

"We truly do appreciate the teachers and all they do for our children," he said. "They do a great job at inspiring. ... They really pour out their lives for our kids."

Rizer added that the luncheon also helped everyone "put a face to this school," an integral part of the community to which the PWOC is committed year-round. Indeed, Witherspoon said they figured largely in the group's prayers.

"We pray for our teachers, our school and our kids' minds," she said, encouraging any who had a prayer request to drop it into the group's box, anonymously if they wished.

The Grafenwoehr PWOC meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. in the chapel annex, and Witherspoon said that their gatherings were open to all.

"We accept everybody," she assured. "We welcome everyone."

Women, young girls celebrate suffrage

BY KATHY JORDAN
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

As befitted the 85th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, Women's Equality Day, Aug. 26 at the Langenbruck Center in Vilseck, celebrated women's right to vote.

A panel of five local women discussed a range of subjects, from the gender's role in the military to their own aspirations. On display were top entries from art contests that had been held in conjunction with the event. Taym Plamann was the winner from Vilseck School Age Services, where Mya Macullem placed second, and Amanda Rodriguez came in third.

At Grafenwoehr Teen Center, Leah Watson took first prize, Kaitlyn Schwartz was runner-up, and third place went to Madelyn Schwartz.

Leah, whose drawing depicted different roles in everyday life, explained her award-winning work.

"The picture I drew is about how I feel about women's equality, and how men and women should be treated equally," she said. "I put the school in the picture, because women were not allowed to go to school with men sometimes, so that is important to me, because now we are allowed to go to school with whomever we want."

Ashley Austin won the Vilseck Teen Center's poetry contest.

Winners received \$50 savings bonds, runners-up were given \$20 gift certificates to Tumbleweeds, and \$10 gift cards from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service went to those who placed third.

Sponsored by area Equal Opportunity and Equal Employment Opportunity offices, the program was aimed at girls to encourage the women of the future. Seeing things through was a recurrent theme in the panel's discussion. Afterward, members praised the open forum.

"You should never miss an opportunity to help others learn from your own personal

experiences, particularly when you deal with a lot of young people," said Audre Binder, director of 100th Area Support Group Morale, Welfare and Recreation and U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr Human Resource Management. Much could be accomplished, she said, simply by being open and honest with others.

"There are a lot of mixed messages they receive, and it's very helpful if there is a little balance," Binder began. "You are never certain what they are exposed to. ... You want to be sure they have heard an encouraging point of view, especially when it comes to valuing themselves as boys or girls — it doesn't matter — and valuing what they can possibly contribute as adults."

"It was important for me to be here today because it gave me an opportunity to represent the Army Nurse Corps, as well as nurses within the military, just to express to young people that they can actually do whatever they want to do," said Capt. Romico Caughman, 100th ASG community health nurse. "They just have to set their goals, stay focused and make it happen."

Kathleen Gibbs, USAG-G public affairs officer, stressed that despite the many strides women had made, their race was far from over.

"Although we have come a long way in women's equality, there are still hurdles that need to be overcome, and the more we remember and have days and celebrations like this, the more we make sure that our younger people take up that baton and continue."

Sgt. 1st Class Reneah Porter, who as EO advisor for the Joint Multinational Training Center helped to organize the observance, said that apart from being part of the job, the day had been beneficial for her.

"This program has personally inspired me to continue with my military career and also know that after I get out of the military, there are other opportunities I can reach for."

Buy by case at commissary

DECA PRESS RELEASE

Commissaries around the world will offer bargains in bulk during two-day sales this month. The Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels dates are Sept. 23 and 24, and the Vilseck event will be Sept. 24 and 25.

The biannual sale offers shoppers discounts of up to 50 percent on paper goods, beverages and cleaning supplies, as well as meats and other chilled items in some locations.

Log on to www.commissaries.com and click on the case-lot link for a list of items to be offered in your store.

Patrons are reminded to call before driving long distances, as sales may be postponed. Phone 475-8489, 476-2921 or 466-2630/2417.

SKIES limit in local children's program

BY ALICE ADLER
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

"There's nothing to do!" is a complaint parents commonly hear, but Hohenfels will soon join Grafenwoehr and Vilseck in offering 3- to 18-year-olds a host of classes under the SKIES umbrella.

An expressive acronym for Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills, the program comprises four basic "disciplines": sports, fitness and health; life skills, citizenship and leadership; art, recreation and leisure; and academic skills, mentoring and intervention. Launched three years ago on installations elsewhere, it has more recently been used in the other 100th Area Support Group communities, and is now expanding to Hohenfels.

"People are very excited ...," said Tammy Weightman, SKIES director for the 282nd Base Support Battalion. "Most people say,

"It's about time!"

Children in Hohenfels can sign up for tae kwon do, ballet, cheerleading, creative drawing, Afro-Latino dance, yoga, German, tennis, tumbling and combo dance. Registration for all is under way and will run through Sept. 30 at the Child and Youth Services Liaison, Education and Outreach Services office. Classes will begin the first week of October.

In Grafenwoehr and Vilseck, the program works somewhat differently. Enrollment for ballet, tae kwon do and karate is continuous. Those interested in hip-hop dance may sign up until Sept. 23.

In every community, participants must be registered with CYS. Class fees vary according to subject, age group and length — anywhere from four to 12 weeks. Some have enrollment limits, but waiting lists will be maintained when necessary.

Instructors are recruited from the commu-

nity based on certification, education or experience in a given field.

Weightman said she hoped to expand the Hohenfels curriculum, listing music, SAT preparation, vehicle care and maintenance, swimming, and horseback riding as possibilities, and planned to poll students at the school to see what interested them. Surveys would be available to parents as well.

She added that the program was particularly useful in broadening the experiences of those being home-schooled, but that all children could benefit greatly from the skills they acquired, the social interaction with others their age and the character developed in the classes.

To become involved with SKIES, whether teaching for it yourself or registering your child, contact Heather Adams, program director for Grafenwoehr and Vilseck, at 475-6161, or Weightman at 466-2479.

911 no use in Germany

BY CHANCE CLAGETT

HOHENFELS ARMY AIRFIELD SAFETY MANAGER

Confused about whom to call in an emergency? So is most of the population.

In America, even children know to dial 911, but the process here is more complicated.

The bottom line is that there is not a centralized number for all scenarios, and the on-post health clinics have no emergency vehicles. Because your geographic location dictates what you must do to get help, knowing how to act in each community, should the need arise, is imperative.

Grafenwoehr and Vilseck

To report a fire on post, the digits to remember are 117, and the following formula applies:

DSN phones	117
On post	83-117
Off post and from cell phones in Grafenwoehr	09641-83-117
Off post and from cell phones in Vilseck	09662-83-117

Those who live off post should call 112 for the German fire department and 110 for the *Polizei*.

The emergency number for the military police is 114, using the prefixes as above. In Grafenwoehr and Vilseck, the MPs may also be called in medical emergencies, as they can dispatch ambulances. Alternatively, phone the hospital in Amberg, 09621-381-339, or Wuerzburg, 0931-804-3877/3400.

Hohenfels

The 282nd Base Support Battalion commander has directed that the phone numbers for the fire department (117) as well as ambulances (116) be routed to the Joint Multinational Readiness Group (formerly Combat Maneuver Training Center) fire department dispatch center. This was done because before, if someone dialed 116, the medical dispatch center in Regensburg received the call. Unnecessary delays resulted if the dispatcher was unable to speak English. Additional time was lost while someone from the dispatch center called the JMRG fire department to verify the emergency and coordinate the escort required at the accident scene. In an emergency, every minute counts. The local nationals at the JMRG fire department dispatch center speak fluent English and can contact the appropriate German emergency service for a synchronized and expeditious response.

Below are the emergency numbers for Hohenfels:

On post	
Fire	116
Ambulance	117
Military police	114

To reach on-post services from off post, add 09472-83 to the above.

Off-post residents should dial 112 for the German fire department, 19222 for an ambulance and 110 for the *Polizei*.

Dental emergencies

Family members and other Tricare beneficiaries have the option of going to a German dentist, but all Soldiers and anyone who lacks this coverage must use the on-call dentist in an emergency, defined as trauma injuries, cases of severe bleeding, breathing difficulties or allergic reactions to a medication.

In Grafenwoehr and Vilseck, phone the MP station at 475-8319 or 476-2490 to speak with the desk sergeant. He will contact the dental officer of the day, who will return your call.

In Hohenfels, dial the Emergency Operations Center at 466-4519 for a referral.



Photo courtesy of Efficient Basing-Grafenwoehr

This aerial view of the unfinished Grafenwoehr Fitness Center gives an idea of its scale, compared to the one-mile track (behind). The facility has been designed to give stylish stateside gyms a run for their money.

Shape of things to come in Grafenwoehr

BY DAN FRAIZER

USAG-G SPORTS AND FITNESS

The new and improved fitness center in Grafenwoehr will give members of the community access to a list of attributes on a par with those of all-in-one American complexes.

"The facility will be completed at the end of October, when the Morale, Welfare and Recreation folks will be installing new equipment and machinery, as well as learning the ins and outs of this modern, air-conditioned fitness center," said Dwane Watsek, who as plans, analysis and integration officer oversees the Efficient Basing-Grafenwoehr renovation-and-expansion construction project. "Currently, the grand opening is tentatively scheduled for the beginning of February."

To anyone who might be concerned about its out-of-the-way location — well beyond the community mail room — wondering what could be worth the trip, read on.

Outside, a track precisely one mile long, paved and slightly elevated in places, surrounds the grounds.

A softball triplex comprises three new fields adjacent to one another. All the action can be monitored from a single tower in the middle. Every dugout will have a water fountain, and each field will have its own electronic scoreboard. Outfield fences are a uniform 310 feet from home plate.

Athletes can train on an all-weather, six-lane track in front of the facility. Along the far straightaway, eight lanes will accommodate sprinters. Field events have been considered too, with a long-jump pit and high-jump, discus, and shot-put areas.

Two fields, both with flood lights and electronic score-

boards, will be available for soccer and football games.

Inside the fitness center, most of the walls are glass, affording a clear view of the grounds and the sports fields, as well as ample sunlight. Staff at the front desk can keep an eye on things and activate all lights and sprinkler systems with the touch of a button.

An open fitness area will contain floor-to-ceiling mirrors, numerous television sets, and entirely new cardio and weight-training equipment, including treadmills, cross-trainers, tread-climbers, steppers, and weight machines from Life Fitness, Nautilus, Precor and Hammer Strength.

A room for spinning will feature strobes and black lights to make indoor cycling as exciting as possible. Another room has been designed for aerobics classes.

Two full-sized basketball courts will allow for simultaneous games. Permanent seating is located at the far end, and retractable bleachers line either side.

A three-lane running track has been constructed two stories above the basketball floor.

Another room, designated for boxing and wrestling practices, will be available to Soldiers interested in building competitive teams or units who wish to train in hand-to-hand combat.

Staff from Outdoor Recreation will help people scale the indoor climbing wall that has been erected.

Like the Grafenwoehr Field House, the new fitness center will have saunas in the men's and the women's locker rooms, but each will also include "submersion," or dip, tanks. Filled with cold water, these are a way to cool down and revitalize after a stint in the sauna.

Pet you save might be your own

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Your pet is part of the family and deserves special care when ill or hurt. In an emergency, try to keep these first-aid tips for nonhuman members in mind:

- + Always approach a sick or injured animal slowly and cautiously;
- + Watch for signals and sounds your pet might make to warn you, for a normally docile animal can become aggressive when pained or frightened;
- + Do not make quick, jerky or loud movements, which might further scare a distressed creature;

- + When necessary, use towels or blankets to subdue cats or small dogs;
- + Keep the phone number and the address of your veterinarian in a convenient location; and
- + Have contact information and directions to an after-hours veterinary clinic on hand (your on-post facility can provide a list). Whenever possible, call ahead and let them know you will be coming.

To treat illnesses as soon as possible, pay attention to what is normal for your pet, so that you can detect when something is wrong.

Learn more about caring for animals in an emergency from the American Red Cross book *Pet First Aid*. To purchase a copy, stop by your local office. Call 475-1760, 476-1760 or 466-1760.



Patricia Poole watches as her dog Ike undergoes his free checkup by Maj. Kimberly Lawler, Hohenfels veterinarian, during the Health and Job Fair outside the Community Activities Center Aug. 25. Because vets are not always so readily available, knowing how to care for your pet in an emergency could be key.

Photo by Alice Adler



Photo by Cara Matlock

Palm-sized pizzas are temptations to peckish guests.

'Pizza-Broetchen' perfect for parties

BY MARTINA BIAS
SPECIAL TO TRAINING TIMES

One feature of many German fests is the firing up of the communal village oven. A number of these remain from medieval times, but in the modern age, they are often used to cook pizzas, which emerge piping hot a few at a time to be snapped up by a line of waiting customers.

Even with a baking stone, the home cook cannot hope to replicate a wood-burning oven or the thin, lightly charred crust it produces, and so it is best to try for a distant cousin: *Pizza-Broetchen*. A popular party food, these are simply rolls that have been sliced open and spread with a medley of colorful ingredients. They can be made in any quantity, and because they are so quick and easy, *Pizza-Broetchen* are perfect for snacks too. Fresh *Broetchen* are available at all local bakeries and most commissaries, but you can substitute French bread. Change the toppings to suit your whim; our family prefers to double the cheese.

On the subject of pizzas, those new to Germany will immediately notice the prevalence of Italian restaurants here. A few pointers on ordering pies are therefore useful. All crusts in these eateries will be thin, just as the Neapolitan original. Toppings are normally placed atop, rather than underneath, the cheese, which may be Romano, Parmesan, Italian mozzarella (whiter and less gooey than the American version) or even Swiss. Finally, on a German menu, "pepperoni" are small, hot peppers — what Americans know by their Italian name, "*pepperoncini*." This is a mistake most newcomers make only once. If you want slices of the familiar cured red sausage, the closest thing in Germany will be salami (the word in all three languages).

Look for fresh pizzas at local festivals and watch for signs publicizing *Backofen*, or "baking oven," fests. In the meantime, bring out hot *Pizza-Broetchen* at your next gathering and watch your guests' mouths water. "*Lasst es Euch schmecken*," or "Let it be tasty to you."

Pizza-Broetchen (Makes 16)

1 1/2 cups diced, fully cooked ham
8 ounces hard salami, diced
1 cup jarred sweet roasted red pepper strips, diced
4.5 ounces canned mushrooms, diced
8 ounces shredded Swiss cheese
3/4 cup whipping cream or half-and-half
1/4 teaspoon each of paprika, pepper, dried oregano,
ground mustard, onion powder and dried basil
8 *Broetchen* (or French bread)

In a large bowl, combine ham, salami, roasted peppers, mushrooms, cheese, cream and seasonings. Preheat oven to 375 F. Slice *Broetchen* (or French bread) in half horizontally. If crisper crust is desired, press down on soft bread or scoop out a little from inside of *Broetchen*; this also helps to hold filling. Place on cookie sheet, cut sides up. Spoon about 1/3 cup of topping mixture onto each *Broetchen* half. Bake for 10 minutes, or until cheese melts and pizza is hot.

German culture 101

Bavaria boasts bevy of fests

BY MARTINA BIAS
SPECIAL TO TRAINING TIMES

This weekend, at noon on Sept. 17 to be exact, the mayor of Munich will open Oktoberfest by declaring, "*O'zapft is*," (Bavarian dialect for "the keg is pegged"). ~~M~~ these words, the *Bier* will begin flowing at the most famous German fest of them all.

For foreigners who flock from around the world to partake of this brew and the regional fare, Oktoberfest represents typical Bavarian culture. ~~M~~it began as a celebration for his subjects when the crown prince (later King Ludwig I) married Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen in October 1810 now draws several million people to the city each year.

Many smaller fests all over the countryside offer visitors a glimpse of local traditions. Such events may be based on seasons, age-old competitions or religious observances, and the name is usually a clear indication of its origins. "*Fruehlingsfest*" means "spring festival," and "*Herbstfest*" denotes one in the fall. Annual amusements for the common folk were dubbed "*Volksfest*" or "*Buergerfest*" ("people's" or "citizens' celebration").

Schuetzenfest, or "shooters' festival," and *Vogelschiessen*, literally, "bird shooting," revolve around yearly marksmanship competitions. Hosted by a local shooting club, these fests frequently include a parade in which the *Schuetzenkoenig*, or "king of the shooters," wears some sort of decoration conferred to the champion. To commemorate the occasion, a *Schuetzenteller*, or "shooters' plate," will be painted to resemble a target and record his name, the date and his winning shot. These will hang in the club's meeting place or on the wall of a local *Gasthaus* for years to come.

In the Upper Palatinate, festivals are often called "*Dult*," a word that may be traced to the Gothic language. *Amberger Dult* and *Regensburger Dult* are large and prolonged open markets or fairs, which in the Middle Ages usually ended the religious celebrations. Others are still more closely

linked; *Martinsdult*, for example, marked the dedication of the local church to St. Martin. Another name for these fests to honor patron saints is "*Kirwa*," a shortened form of "*Kirchweih*," or "church dedication." These important occasions in each town or village involve a host of rituals, dances and, of course, special foods. Bratwursts and steaks — or perhaps a spit-roasted ox or suckling pig — are washed down with a big *Mass*, or "liter," of local brew by citizens seated on wooden benches placed on the fairgrounds or the market square. In certain regions, *Gasthaeuser* offer festal menus, which can vary greatly from place to place.

In the village where I grew up, *Kirchweih* starts on a Thursday with an evening meal of *Rindskopf* — boiled meat from a cow's head — with horseradish sauce and potato dumplings. Friday it's *Karpfen*, a German carp, served either "*blau*" (boiled in vinegary water until its skin turns blue) or "*gebacken*" (breaded and fried). The feasting extends into Monday with items such as goose, duck and wild game.

For children, the highlight of our celebration is the annual guinea pig race in the firehouse on Sunday (don't worry: no animals have ever been harmed during these games). You might be curious about the religious significance of this contest. The truth is that my hometown is so tiny that it has no church. ~~M~~en I questioned my father about this, he replied, "All the other villages celebrate *Kirchweih*, and we wanted to have a *Kirchweih* too, so we simply picked a date and started our traditions."

This easygoing attitude is typical of the welcoming atmosphere found at *Kirwa*. ~~M~~in your German neighbors to observe some local customs, sample native specialties and have a true Bavarian experience.

If you have ever wondered why Germans do certain things, or if you have a favorite German dish and would like to prepare it at home, send your questions and comments to martina.bias@us.army.mil. One of your suggestions could be used for a future column.



File photo by Cara Matlock

A butcher tends his ox as it turns on a spit during a *Buergerfest*, or "citizens' celebration," in Grafenwoehr.



A Bavarian band plays for the crowd below in a colorfully festooned Oktoberfest tent.



Board the Ferris wheel for a fabulous view of the fest grounds and most of Munich (above). At left, cooks in a tent kitchen work, as some of the several thousand roast chickens served each day brown behind them.

Photos by Alice Adler

Oktoberfest

Young children? 'Kein Problem!' No need to miss out on revelry

BY ALICE ADLER
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

Here you are in Bavaria — two hours or less from Oktoberfest — yet you feel you just can't go. After all, the world's biggest party is surely no place for families.

Not so! Oktoberfest is much like any Volksfest, only larger, with plenty for children to do. It is true that in the evening, the beer tents can get fairly rowdy, but if you use common sense and plan wisely, you and your family can have a wonderful time there.

First, time your visit well. Ideally, go in the middle of the week, the least crowded and most family-appropriate days. If that is not possible, then go early; Oktoberfest opens at 9 a.m. on weekends and holidays.

Once there, check out the beer tents before the hordes arrive. Most are open by 10 a.m., and they are massive, truly sights to behold. Each of the 14 airplane hanger-sized tents is decorated in a different theme — a hunting lodge, heaven in the clouds, an indoor carnival — and no two are alike. Go inside a few, if only to appreciate the décor. Every one also features traditional brass bands performing nonstop. Many tables will have been reserved for later in

the day, but if you get there soon enough, you can sit for awhile, enjoying the music in a hospitable environment. Soft drinks are always available for little ones (as well as adults who don't care to down a liter of brew), and plenty of savory Bavarian dishes are served.

Taking children into the beer tents in the evening is not recommended. In fact, those under 6 are prohibited after 8 p.m., when the atmosphere becomes smoke-filled and raucous. Large quantities of alcohol are consumed with abandon, and the crowd can become pushy.

After you have had your fill of the beer tents, explore the remaining fest grounds. Because of its scale, Oktoberfest has a much greater variety of rides than any ordinary Volksfest and includes several for very young children. Bumper cars, a haunted house and a hall of mirrors are perfect for those a bit older. Teenagers and adults usually have their choice of three roller coasters. One is shaped like the Olympic rings, with five loops to make your head spin. Another is designed so that the track is above the passengers, leaving their legs dangling in the air.

Finally, hop on the giant Ferris wheel for an amazing view of the fest grounds with Munich as a backdrop. Don't

forget your camera.

The selection of foods on offer could glut any appetite: the usual candied nuts, chocolate-dipped fruits, wursts and giant pretzels, in addition to Greek specialties, pizzas, rotisserie chickens and more.

Stop at one of the numerous games along the midway to win a reminder of your day or simply peruse the souvenir booths for T-shirts, postcards and mugs.

Allow some time for walking around. Beer companies sponsor huge wagons pulled by teams of brightly arrayed draft horses, and people-watching is fun too, for Bavarians often come decked out in their best folk garb, thrilling tourists who have gathered from every continent.

If you prefer not to drive, go by train; then use the subway or take a 10-minute walk to the fest. Information, Tickets and Reservations offices have arranged bus trips for Sept. 17 and 24 and Oct. 1, but you must sign up in advance. Call 475-7402, 476-2295 or 466-2060/2555 for fees.

The party runs through Oct. 3. On family days, Sept. 21 and 28, prices on rides will be discounted.

For more information about Oktoberfest, log on to www.oktoberfest.de; the page is available in English.

Heady experience: mellower taste of 'Bayrisch' Kraut'

BY MARTINA BIAS
SPECIAL TO TRAINING TIMES

Cabbage is so universally associated with Germany that recipes for sauerkraut turn up frequently in American cookbooks. You will find it everywhere, for Germans prepare it at home, order it in restaurants, and eat it with sausages and other traditional fare at Oktoberfest and smaller celebrations.

Some Americans find the pickled taste of sauerkraut too strong, but

in this country, the fresh vegetable is also cooked in a number of ways. Most are simple and get their particular flavor from the fat used, the most common being lard, bacon grease and goose fat. Some versions include carrots, or pureed raw potatoes as a thickener.

One recipe that is especially popular in this German state proudly bears its name: *Bayrisch' Kraut*, or "Bavarian cabbage." It is usually served with pork dishes,

such as chops, bratwurst, or fried pork patties, and rounded out with boiled potatoes or potato dumplings. The flavor is very mild, but you can adjust the seasonings to taste. *Guten Appetit!*

Bayrisch' Kraut (Serves 10 to 12)
3 pounds cabbage (red, green or mixed), finely shredded
1/2 stick butter (no substitutes)
1 onion, finely diced
1 medium apple, finely shredded

1 cup white cooking wine
2 tablespoons cider vinegar
1 tablespoon sugar
2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon caraway seeds
10 slices bacon, diced
Optional: 1 tablespoon cornstarch and 1/4 cup water

In a large, heavy pot, melt butter and lightly brown onions. Add cabbage; cook and stir for about five minutes. Add shredded apple,

wine, vinegar, sugar, salt and caraway seeds. Cover and cook over medium heat for 10 minutes.

Brown chopped bacon in a saucepan. Do not drain. Pour all into cabbage and stir to mix. Continue cooking for about 30 minutes or until cabbage is tender.

If you wish to thicken the juices, mix cornstarch with water and add to cabbage. Return to boil and cook for several minutes. Add more vinegar and/or salt, if desired.

No immunity for Americans living abroad

Being stationed overseas does not mean that U.S. citizens are no longer subject to the jurisdiction of federal, state and local courts in their own country.

You may be a party to a lawsuit as a plaintiff or a defendant or you may be called as a witness. You are not exempt from being summoned to an American court merely because you are in Germany.

If you receive notice to appear in civil court, immediately consult an attorney at your Legal Assistance office. You may be able to contest this under the Hague Convention treaties. Because these were signed by Germany and ratified by the U.S. Congress, they have the force of federal law and supersede all state laws. In laymen's terms, this means that as an American residing in this country, you cannot lawfully be served by a state court's summons simply by certified U.S. mail sent to your Army Post Office address; however, you must not accept such a service, and the court and the opposing attorney must be notified of the Hague Convention's provisions.

Proper service

Correctly executed summons for those living in Germany must conform to a number of rules and be served by your local law center, having first gone through the German federal prosecutor's office in Berlin, as well as U.S. authorities in Heidelberg.

If you receive legal documents from a U.S. court any way other than that described above, do not simply ignore them. Immediately make an appointment to see a Legal Assistance attorney, who will help you respond without relinquishing any of your rights, so that you may avoid a default judgment.

Civil Relief Act

Those on active duty are entitled to request a stay of proceedings under the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act. Enacted as the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act in 1940 and thoroughly revised and renamed by Congress in 2003, this statute offers many protections, including a 6 percent interest cap on obligations incurred before one went on active duty, the right to terminate American leases of housing and automobiles, and exemption from certain state taxes.

Laws of the land

Legal status in 'Deutschland'

American personnel in Germany — servicemembers, civilian employees of the U.S. government, contractors and their families — are governed by international accords, chiefly the NATO Status of Forces Agreement and its supplements.

Under the SOFA, those who have NATO status do not acquire residency in Germany and are generally exempt from that country's laws for residence, work permits and taxation (certain exceptions apply to people engaged in profit-making activities not related to government employment). NATO status thus alleviates some of the burdens of taking up residence abroad.

Nonetheless, it is best always to remember that you are on foreign soil. Military installations are not diplomatic enclaves, and as a general rule, all your actions — on and off post — are subject to German law. U.S. personnel stationed in this country enjoy no immunity from local regulations.

German authorities have primary jurisdiction over crimes perpetrated by American servicemembers, unless the offense was committed in the performance of official duty or the victim was the United States as an entity, one of its military or civilian personnel, or a dependent of such, in which cases the accused may be tried by court-martial.

U.S. civilian employees and dependents, on the other hand, are subject to trial by German courts for criminal offenses. The Pond Security gate guard who was killed by

an American on Grafenwoehr in July is an excellent example. The jurisdiction of U.S. military authorities over civilians is limited to administrative sanctions, such as reprimands, termination of logistical support, early return of dependents and limitation of privileges derived from association with the U.S. Armed Forces (see *Long arm of command reaches all*, page 10).

In civil (i.e., "not criminal") matters, German courts have jurisdiction over all people in this country, regardless of nationality, military status or NATO affiliation. Americans in Germany may therefore sue and be sued in local courts for breaking a lease or failing to pay a bill, and under certain circumstances, obtaining a divorce or child custody.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Soldiers pose by the Brandenburg Gate in East Berlin during an orientation tour in the 1980s. Americans overseas have some protections under the Status of Forces Agreement, but they must abide by local laws — or suffer the consequences.

Having your day in German court

U.S. citizens living in this country fall under the jurisdiction of German civil courts and certain agencies.

German law requires that people be notified of pending civil court or administrative actions. According to the NATO Status of Forces Agreement, a process or a summons must be served to the Soldier, civilian employee or family member by the sponsor's military legal office in most cases (though in others, these may be delivered directly through the German system).

Should you receive notice of criminal, civil or administrative action, do not simply ignore it. Call your Legal Assistance office at once. If you have been charged with a crime, you may be eligible for certain services paid for by the U.S. government, including the cost of a German defense attorney. Failure to respond, however, puts you at risk of having a default judgment entered against you, which may result in your property's being seized without further notice. When mailing a summons or a service of process, the courts will have calculated deadlines from the day of delivery.

Documents in civil proceedings that involve members of the U.S. Forces, their

civilian components and family members — usually disputes over debts, damage to property and paternity — are normally served through the military law center. Service of criminal process usually arises when someone violates German traffic laws or is needed as a witness at a criminal trial. To comply with U.S. treaty obligations, commanders may order servicemembers to sign for receipt of legal documents at their law center. Commanders must also obey instructions from the judge advocate about assistance to German bailiffs in actions involving a debtor's funds or property and about appearance at German court proceedings.

A local court, or "*Amtsgerichte*," may send notification that you must either pay a fine or request a court hearing. These penal orders, or "*Strafbefehle*," issued upon the recommendation of a district attorney based on evidence in their files, are serious. German courts generally dispose of minor criminal offenses without hearings and render decisions equivalent to convictions. You are not innocent until proven guilty, as in America. In such cases, a judicial determination of guilt is made, while the accused is given the opportunity to pay a

fine without having to go to jail. If the accused denies guilt, a written objection must be filed with the court within two weeks of the initial service. The court will then set a hearing date. If the court rules against you after the hearing, however, you will be liable for a much greater sum than the amount of the initial penal order. If you do not file your appeal within seven days of service, the penal order becomes a final judgment against you.

Within a few weeks, you will receive an invoice from the court, either served through the military law center or simply mailed to you. You must pay this fine within two weeks of service, using the enclosed payment order, or "*Zahlkarte*." Payment can be made at any bank. *Deutsche Post* or the court clerk's office. Installment plans are usually available upon request. If you fail to pay the amount ordered, and if you did not file an appeal, you may be punished with increased processing fees, or in severe cases, with imprisonment. The Army will not allow servicemembers, civilians or their dependents to make permanent changes of station from Germany until such fines have been paid.

Three pages of what you should know to live peacefully in Germany Text by Grafenwoehr Law Center

Driving forces: how not to lose your license

Having an automobile in this country requires you to register that vehicle, maintain it to German standards and abide by traffic regulations on post as well as off.

Registration

Your driving privileges may be withdrawn for not registering a car (or not reregistering it within 30 days of expiration), for failing to return temporary license plates, for not maintaining insurance, for transferring plates to an unregistered vehicle, and for abandoning an automobile. Registration may also be cancelled on a car that sports indecent or obscene bumper stickers, signs, or writing.

Traffic laws

If you are cited by the *Polizei* for a traffic violation, the ticket will be processed in the German courts. In such cases, you may be served with the citation directly through the German system, usually by mail, or by the civil process officer at your military law center. You must pay the fine within two weeks using the payment form attached (either yellow or red and labelled "*Zahlkarte*"); otherwise, you must appeal the offense in writing no more than seven days after receiving the citation.

Points on your driver's license

If the military police cite you for a traffic violation, or if the *Polizei* turn a traffic case over to U.S. authorities, the matter will be processed under Army in Europe Regulation 190-1, Registering and Operating Privately Owned Motor Vehicles in Germany.

Points are assessed against USAREUR licenses according to the offense committed: If you accrue six or more points in a year, you may be required to attend remedial drivers' training. Those who rack up 12 points during one year, or 18 within two, will have their USAREUR



Photo by Alice Adler

Don't be fooled by the ubiquity of beer (and wine) in Bavaria. Germans take driving under the influence seriously, and their blood-alcohol limit is 0.05 percent, considered low by American standards.

licenses suspended.

Car accidents

You should never leave the scene of an accident without first notifying the *Polizei* or the MPs. If possible, do not move the vehicles involved before police officers arrive, as

their relative locations may be important in determining who was at fault.

Be circumspect about what you say. Do not admit liability, even if you think you may have been to blame; leave that for your insurance company to sort out. Get names and addresses of witnesses and then notify your insurer. Photograph the damage and the scene if you have a camera.

When settling a claim, an insurance company may try to deduct 16 percent from your settlement for the value-added tax, telling you that the NATO Status of Forces Agreement relieves you from paying taxes on repair work. Your insurer, however, is not entitled to such a deduction, and you should insist upon the Article 15 amount.

Drinking and driving

In Germany, a blood-alcohol content of 0.05 percent is enough to make you guilty of driving under the influence. Be aware that this is significantly lower than the limits in many U.S. states. If you are asked to blow into a Breathalyzer and you refuse, you are presumed intoxicated. You will automatically lose your license for one year and suffer additional penalties.

The *Polizei* have the authority to draw blood by force if you do not cooperate; this sample will be tested, and you will be charged accordingly. DUIs committed by Soldiers are generally turned over to the U.S. authorities for disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The consequences of violating DUI laws can be severe, ranging from an administrative fine to imprisonment.

Furthermore, a general officer's letter of reprimand will be given to any Soldier who either refuses to submit to a blood-alcohol test or receives a DUI, on an installation or off, regardless of whether he is processed through court channels or given an Article 15.

Family matters

Marriages

A civil ceremony at the local registry office, or "*Standesamt*," is the only form of lawful marriage in Germany. Religious ceremonies are optional. Because of the exacting requirements, however, most Americans who wish to be wed while stationed in this country — whether to compatriots, Germans or citizens of some other nation — buy tickets to Denmark, where a couple who has taken with them certain legal documents can be married 24 hours after arriving. Consult an attorney at your local law center before you depart.

Adoptions

If you are adopting a child in the United States or elsewhere, the Army may reimburse you for up to \$2,000 of adoption-related expenses per child. If you incur an amount in excess of \$2,000, or if you do not apply for reimbursement from the Army, you are

See Family, page 10

Don't let self be sold short — on post or off

Germany has a thorough body of consumer-protection law, but prospective purchasers of goods and services should ever bear in mind the maxim "*Caveat emptor!*" or "Let the buyer beware!"

Warranties

The German civil code provides guarantees or warranties on all manner of items and real property, from automobiles and car parts to houses and furniture. If you feel that a purchase does not meet a contractual or implied warranty of quality, you may be able to cancel the contract or obtain a reduction in the price. Be aware that you must take legal action within two years, and that if you wait longer than six months to complain, you will face a higher burden of proof to show that the item was faulty when you bought it.

Installment plans

Contracts in which the buyer agrees to make more than one payment or delays paying for more than three months are common in this country. A German credit law provides the consumer with certain rights upon beginning an installment plan. Extensions of credit for a period of more than three months must be in writing, with a copy furnished

to the buyer; disclose terms as well as the interest rate and itemize all costs of the transaction; and prominently display a notice of the buyer's right to cancel the contract within one week, with an address to which notice of cancellation should be sent by certified mail. An installment contract that does not comply with all of the above may be voided for up to a year after it was made.

Traveling salesmen

Door-to-door sales are prohibited within U.S. housing areas. A salesman may only visit a prospective buyer if invited, and he must have a valid permit signed by the installation commander. U.S. Forces personnel (including Department of Defense civilians) are forbidden to sell door-to-door to other members of the military community. This prohibition does not extend to onetime sales of personal property, such as a car or furniture. Those living or working on the installation, however, may neither sell goods or services (such as life insurance, real estate or cosmetics) as an agent for another person or company, nor operate a business selling to other members of the military community. Limited exceptions for Girl Scout cookies and the like exist, but you should check with your local law center for guidance.

Questions? Call Legal Assistance: 475-7114 in Grafenwoehr, 476-2289 in Vilseck or 466-2401 in Hohenfels.

Irreconcilable differences

Army attorneys, be they officers in the Judge Advocate General's Corps or civilians, cannot represent you or your spouse in divorce proceedings. They can, however, advise both of their rights and sometimes assist in preparing separation agreements, the terms of which may address such matters as child support and custody, division of marital property, and alimony.

Rights of former spouses

If you are a dependent considering divorce, you may wish to know your rights with respect to military benefits and whether (or to what extent) you may be entitled to a portion of the servicemember's pension. Children of the marriage generally retain their right to a military identification card, because their status does not change with a divorce decree. Although ex-spouses who are not in the military themselves will be asked to return their ID card, in the United States they may obtain a limited-access pass to enter installations so that they can accompany their children to military facilities and take advantage of the latter's Army benefits. Within Germany, military benefits (except emergency medical care) for the children of divorced parents will cease when the Soldier returns to America.

For civilian divorcees to qualify for Army benefits, such as commissary, Post Exchange and other nonmedical privileges, they must neither remarry nor be covered by an employer-sponsored health care plan, and they must have been married for at least 20 years of the military spouse's active-duty career. Medical benefits may be extended for one year after the divorce.

Division of retirement pay

In a few cases, compelling reasons may exist for trying to obtain a divorce in German court, but a major drawback is the inability of such a body to grant a spouse any portion of a U.S. pension. Military retirement pay can only be divided in carrying out a divorce decree entered by a court in the United States. Under the federal statute Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act, an ex-spouse who is a civilian is entitled to one-half of the servicemember's military pension that accrued during the active-duty years of a marriage, but a lower amount may be voluntarily accepted. Direct payment from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service is available for up to 50 percent of total retirement pay if the marriage lasted for 10 or more years of active-duty service. Soldiers who do not wish for their nest egg to be subject to this division should stipulate that a statement to this effect be written into the divorce decree.

Survivors' Benefit Plan

The Survivors' Benefit Plan is a government-subsidized annuity designed for family members of deceased military retirees. The entitlement of a former spouse to SBP benefits does not end upon divorce. A servicemember's previous election of a spouse as beneficiary cannot be revoked unless the civilian ex-spouse consents or the divorce decree specifies this. On the other hand, a former spouse who previously was not covered may become a SBP beneficiary within one year of divorce, if such a provision is included in the decree.



Photo by Alice Adler

Laura Redden checks out items posted for sale in the community mail room – an oft-used resource – but buyers should let discretion be their watchword.

Getting deals down in black-and-white

Samuel Goldwyn is said to have declared, "An oral contract isn't worth the paper it's written on." Practically speaking, this is often true in the United States, but under German law, a contract may be formed and deemed binding even if not in writing.

For this reason, you should never agree to buy an automobile – or anything else – unless you intend to go through with the transaction. Don't assume that you cannot be required to carry out the terms of the contract or be held liable for damages until you have signed a piece of paper. Once you are certain that you wish to buy a car, put the agreement in writing before you pay any money. A written contract will generally supplant any oral arrangements.

This contract should include parties' names, the purchase price, financial terms (e.g., cash, check or installments), the vehicle identification number, any warranties or guarantees (used cars are sold "as is," unless the terms state otherwise), and the date. Visit the Legal Assistance office and ask an attorney to review your contract before you sign it.

Should you buy a used automobile that has been registered in U.S. Army Europe, take the blue-and-white copy of the USAREUR certificate to your local vehicle registration office and reregister the car in your name after it has passed inspection. Call 475-6477, 476-2626 or 466-2119 for more information.

If you are selling a car, do not set up an installment plan. Because the Army cannot enforce private contracts, your only recourse if aggrieved would be suing in German court.

Long arm of command reaches all

Although German authorities have exclusive criminal jurisdiction over family members and other civilian personnel, the 100th Area Support Group commander may employ a number of administrative actions in cases of misconduct.

These sanctions include requiring the sponsor of an offending juvenile to impose a curfew, excluding a dependent from certain facilities, suspending a dependent's license to drive and withdrawing logistical support.

Ration cards may be suspended or withdrawn for wrongful turnover or sale of tax-free items and for abuse or misuse of alcoholic beverages. A dependent's identification card may be overstepped if his check-writing privileges have been suspended or if he has been barred from using the Post Exchange, as in cases of shoplifting.

Upon request of the sponsor or the dependent spouse – or at the direction of the command – the Army may authorize the early return of either a dependent (including his property) or a sponsor's entire family at government

expense. Early return is normally used when a couple is separating in anticipation of a divorce or when a family member has a medical condition that is not treatable at a military hospital overseas. Requests for advance returns should be submitted through the sponsor's chain of command.

Sometimes when a commander grants an early return to a sponsor, one of his dependents declares that he does not wish to return to the United States. Missing a flight under such orders will generally mean the loss of PX and commissary privileges, government housing, and access to military installations. Furthermore, "no fee" passports must be surrendered to the U.S. Consulate, and a tourist passport obtained. Americans in Germany who are no longer covered by the Status of Forces Agreement may remain on a tourist visa for only 90 days. The German authorities can initiate deportation proceedings against people who have expired visas. Finally, moving back to the United States would be at the dependent's expense.

Enjoying benefits of borderless world

Whether you or someone in your family needs a visa or a passport, allow plenty of time, as some applications require many months to process.

Citizenship and visas

Applications for visas and citizenship may be obtained at the American Consulate in Frankfurt, Siemeyerstrasse 21, 60323 Frankfurt am Main, phone (069)-75350, and on the Web site of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (see below). For each eligible relative, you must file Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, and pay a \$185 fee. Because the process for obtaining nonimmigrant visas (as for a foreign-national spouse) is a protracted one, make contact with the consulate well in advance of attempted travel to the United States with a person who requires a visa.

Passports

Your local passport office has applications; call 475-6550/6551, 476-3043 or 466-2547 for information. The Regional Personnel Center and the U.S. Consulate will not accept photocopies, only originals or certified copies from the

issuer (e.g., certified copies of birth certificates from your State Bureau of Vital Records), not mere certified copies from a military law center.

Expedited procedure for servicemembers

If you are a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and wish to become an American citizen, you may be eligible to apply under special provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (formerly called the Immigration and Naturalization Service and commonly referred to as "INS") has streamlined this process for those on active duty (or within six months of being discharged) as long as they served honorably for at least a year. All applicants for citizenship must possess "good moral character," pass an English proficiency test, demonstrate knowledge of American history and government, and take an oath of allegiance to the U.S. Constitution. Servicemembers are, however, exempt from certain other requirements, including residency and physical presence in the United States, and they need not pay a naturalization fee. For more information, log on to www.uscis.gov.

Family

Continued from page 9

entitled to a credit on your federal tax return.

Births

A birth certificate from a U.S. military hospital is not proof that your child is an American citizen. By the same token, a child born to Americans stationed in Germany should have a German birth certificate in addition to an American one. You must register your child's birth at the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt (phone 069-75350) before he can be included on a parent's U.S. passport (not possible if the mother is a foreign national) or be issued his own U.S. passport. You must complete Form FS 240, Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America. For assistance, call your local passport office at 475-6550/6551, 476-3043 or 466-2547.

Hispanic Heritage Month

• Soto, billed as a "Latin-funk-R&B-dance band," will give a concert Sept. 14, 9 p.m., at Yesterday's Club in Vilseck. The group has performed with James Brown, Whitney Houston, Poncho Sanchez and many others. For more details, call 476-2937.

• Memorial Fitness Center in Vilseck will host a fiesta, complete with samples of traditional foods and a variety of entertainment, Sept. 17, 12 to 5 p.m.

• Two contests are under way in Hohenfels: kindergartners through sixth-graders can create posters depicting Hispanics' influence on U.S. culture, and students in grades seven to 12 can write essays about a particular Hispanic who has made an impact in America. All entries must be turned in at the Equal Opportunity office, School Age Services or the teen center by noon Sept. 23. Cash prizes will be awarded.

Off post

• Tour downtown Vilseck with a costumed night watchman Sept. 17, 6 p.m., beginning at the *Rathaus*, or "town hall." The fee is 4 euros (minimum 10 participants), and torches will be available for 1 euro. Call 09662-40212 by Sept. 15 to reserve.

• The *Altstadtfest* in Nuremberg, Sept. 15 to 26, will feature outdoor markets filled with food, clothing, books and household items. Franconian choirs will perform

Classes

• The new Grafenwoehr Library will host a seminar titled *Medicine and Life in Afghanistan* Sept. 16, 12 p.m. The latest information about Lyme disease will also be given.

• German for beginners and more advanced speakers will be taught Sept. 19 to Dec. 20, Mondays and Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., at Hotel Schoell in Hoernannsdorf (near Hohenfels). Call 09181-44704 for more information.

• Learn to make sterling silver

Sept. 18 beginning at 2 p.m.

jewelry Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at the Vilseck *Volksschule*. The fee of 22 to 45 euros (depending on the number of participants) includes tools; supplies will cost an additional 7 to 25 euros. To sign up, call Army Community Service at 476-2650 by Sept. 26.

Job opportunities

The Vilseck Dental Clinic has two volunteer positions available: a registered nurse to assist in pediatrics and an artist to design and paint a children's mural. Call 476-1720 for more information.



Photo by Kathy Jordan

School days

Register your child or volunteer to help out with Cub and Girl Scouts at Grafenwoehr Elementary's open house, set for Sept. 15, 6 p.m. Above, children color during the school orientation for new students Aug. 25.

Land Combat Expo nears

JMTC PRESS RELEASE

The Joint Multinational Training Center will showcase its know-how and equipment at the annual Land Combat Expo, Sept. 21 to 23 at the Village Pavilion on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg.

The expo is U.S. Army Europe's premier professional-development forum, and the theme this year is USAREUR: At War Today and Transforming for the Future. It is designed to showcase contributions to the Global War on Terrorism by USAREUR and its international partners. The latest in military technology, such as the new Stryker armored vehicle coming to Vilseck, will be featured, along with numerous displays from Germany, Italy, Poland, the United Kingdom, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Romania and Turkey. Additionally, guest speakers and seminars are scheduled for Soldiers, civilians and family members.

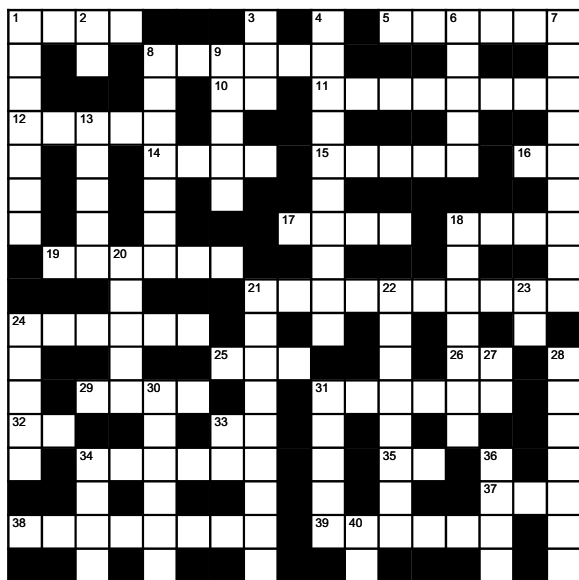
The JMTC will highlight how it provides ready, agile combat forces for the joint, interagency and multinational operating environment, training them in Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels or wherever Soldiers are located. The center's capabilities will be represented with an array of booths, demonstrations and hands-on exhibits that focus on how equip-

ment, technology and people are transforming training within USAREUR and projecting that power to nations in eastern Europe.

JMTC will also present a seminar titled *Training Lessons Learned in Iraq and Afghanistan*, Sept. 23, 10 a.m. At the same time, for those who are unable to make it to Heidelberg, the center will host a live-fire on range 118 at the Grafenwoehr Training Area. Weapons demonstrated will be XM307 25mm Advanced Crew-Served Machine Gun, XM312 Lightweight 50-Caliber Machine Gun, XM25 Semiautomatic Airburst Weapon, XM26 12-Gauge Modular Accessory Shotgun System, and XM320 40mm Grenade Launcher.

Nearly 250 manufacturers of weapons and military hardware, Army commands, associations, veterans' groups, and other organizations will fill a massive tent with displays. JMTC will have more than a dozen exhibits, including Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, Laser Marksmanship Training System, Mobile Close Combat Tactical Trainer and Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainer, Deployable Instrumentation Systems Europe, Integrated Training Area Management, General Support Center—Rodelheim, and nonlethal weapons and munitions.

Crossword *¿Hablas español?* Prepare for Hispanic Heritage Month by spotting all of the Spanish words we use as well as many English ones with Spanish origins



Across

- 1 Brand of running shoe
5 Once-formidable

fleet

- 8 Nook or niche
10 "Virtue ___ the truest nobility." —

Dorothea, in *Don Quixote*

- 11 Psychopath in *Silence of the*

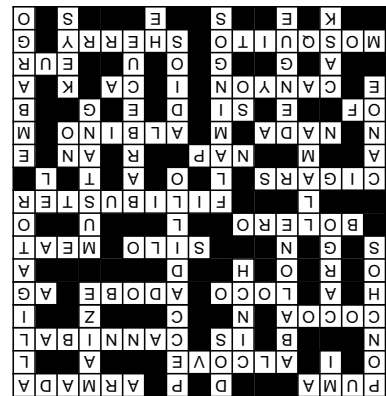
- Lambs one
12 Cold-weather beverage
14 Completely crazy
15 Desert dwelling
16 *Platina*, or "platinum," means little ___ (abbr.)
17 Filled with fodder
18 Essential for chili con carne
19 Ravel's symphonic crescendo
21 Legislative delay
24 Best come from Cuba
25 Siesta
26 "Every child is ___ artist. The problem is how to remain one once he grows up." — Pablo Picasso, Spanish painter
29 "Nothing," *en español*
31 Pale and pink-eyed
32 "Experience is not always the kindest ___ teachers, but it is surely the

- best." — Spanish proverb
33 Yes
34 Gigantic gorge
35 Location of Los Angeles, or "the Angels" (abbr.)
37 Where Spain is (abbr.)
38 Carries malaria
39 Certain housewives once said to be "hitting" it

Down

- 1 Closed-front capes
2 ___ *casa es su casa*, or "My house is your house."
3 Spanish for "two"
4 Trifling offense
6 Kind of corn
7 Rapacious reptile
8 Makes mother-of-pearl
9 To tighten
13 Pocket-covered pants
18 Ford model since 1964

- 20 Camel's cousin
21 Roseate waterfowl
22 Sort of sauce
23 ___ *Niño*, literally "the boy [or Christ] child"
24 Eskimo's is a kayak
27 ___ *hay problema*, or "not a problem"
28 Prohibition at port
30 Type of tropical fever
31 Opposite of "hola"
33 America where Spanish spoken most widely (abbr.)
34 The ___ of *Amontillado* by Edgar Allan Poe
36 Reefs renowned for limes
40 Nominative pronoun for "señor"



now showing



Unless otherwise noted, all cinemas are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, and movies begin at 7 p.m. The Tower Theater in Grafenwoehr is closed on Wednesdays as well. Because schedules are subject to change, please telephone for verification.

Grafenwoehr, Camp Aachen (09641-83-6115)

The theater does not regularly screen films because of its limited use by troops. Tune in to AFN Bavaria for announcements or phone the number above to hear a recording of the latest schedule.

Grafenwoehr, Tower (09641-83-1790)

Thursday, Sept. 15 *The Cave*
Friday, Sept. 16 *Dark Water*
Saturday, Sept. 17 *Transporter 2*
Sunday, Sept. 18 1 p.m. *Rebound*
The Island
Thursday, Sept. 22 *Fantastic Four*
Friday, Sept. 23 *The Devil's Rejects*

Saturday, Sept. 24

Sunday, Sept. 25

Hohenfels, General Patton (09472-83-1790)

Wednesday, Sept. 14 Closed
Thursday, Sept. 15 *Dark Water*
Friday, Sept. 16 *Rebound*
Saturday, Sept. 17 *The Island*
Sunday, Sept. 18 1 p.m. *Fantastic Four*
Wednesday, Sept. 21 *Transporter 2*
Thursday, Sept. 22 *Bewitched*
Friday, Sept. 23 *Just Like Heaven*
Saturday, Sept. 24 *The Island*

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
Bad News Bears

Sunday, Sept. 25

Just Like Heaven

Vilseck, Mike Jurkewicz (09662-83-1790)

Wednesday, Sept. 14 *The Cave*
Thursday, Sept. 15 *War of the Worlds*
Friday, Sept. 16 *Transporter 2*
Saturday, Sept. 17 *The Longest Yard*
Sunday, Sept. 18 1 p.m. *Fantastic Four*
Crash
Wednesday, Sept. 21 *The Island*
Thursday, Sept. 22 *Transporter 2*
Friday, Sept. 23 *High Tension*
Saturday, Sept. 24 *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
Sunday, Sept. 25 *Bad News Bears*

previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews



The agent finds he can't get away in *Transporter 2*.

Bad News Bears (PG-13)

Billy Bob Thornton, Greg Kinnear and Marcia Gay Harden

In this update of the 1976 romp, a foulmouthed, liquor-swilling coach takes on a Little League team of the most inept outcasts and turns them into championship finalists.

Bewitched (PG-13)

Nicole Kidman, Will Ferrell and Shirley MacLaine

A down-on-his-luck actor decides to try out for an update of the 1960s sitcom and meets a woman he thinks would make an excellent co-star, never suspecting that she is a witch.

The Cave (PG-13)

Cole Hauser, Morris Chestnut and Eddie Cibrian

American explorers search the mile-deep caverns of Romania for a unique ecosystem but find an unknown species of predator instead.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (PG)

Johnny Depp, Freddie Highmore and Helena Bonham Carter

Tim Burton turns his vivid imagination to the beloved Roald Dahl classic about eccentric chocolatier Willy Wonka and Charlie Bucket, a poor young lad who lives in the shadow of his extraordinary factory.

Crash (R)

Don Cheadle, Sandra Bullock and Jennifer Esposito

Diving headlong into the diverse melting pot of post-9/11 Los Angeles, this urban drama tracks the volatile encounters of a multi-ethnic cast as its characters collide.

Dark Water (PG-13)

Jennifer Connelly, Ariel Gade and Dougray Scott

A newly separated mother and her young daughter move into a dilapidated apartment, where unstoppable leaks and other odd occurrences leave them up to their necks in fear.

The Devil's Rejects (R)

Sid Haig, Bill Moseley and Sheri Moon Zombie

The follow-up to the 2003 horror hit *House of 1,000 Corpses* exhumes the story of an evil family of sadistic murderers who like to torture, maim and kill everyone who crosses their path.

Fantastic Four (PG-13)

Ioan Gruffudd, Jessica Alba and Michael Chiklis

After a research mission to outer space, four crew members find that their exposure to cosmic radiation has endowed them with superhuman abilities.

High Tension (R)

Philippe Nahon, Maiwenn Le Besco and Cecile de France

In this French director's whack at the slasher genre, a teenaged girl takes a friend home to the countryside, where the two must outwit a maniac who has butchered her parents.

The Island (PG-13)

Scarlett Johansson, Ewan McGregor and Djimon Hounsou

A resident of a contained futuristic facility discovers that the institute is planning to kill him and plots his escape to the last uncontaminated spot on the planet.

Just Like Heaven (PG-13)

Reese Witherspoon, Mark Ruffalo and Donal Logue

A man is startled when a young woman shows up in his new apartment, adamantly insisting that it is hers. After he becomes convinced that she is only a ghost, she tries to



Martin Lawrence makes a *Rebound* with seven misfits.

persuade him otherwise.

The Longest Yard (PG-13)

Adam Sandler, Chris Rock and Burt Reynolds

A onetime professional quarterback and a former college football star doing time in the same prison draft a team of inmates to take on the guards.

Rebound (PG)

Martin Lawrence, Wendy Robinson and Breckin Meyer

When a top collegiate basketball coach gets banned because of his temper, he must take a job teaching junior-high students how to dribble.

Transporter 2 (PG-13)

Jason Statham, Alessandro Gassman and Amber Valletta

The former Special Forces operative, now working as a chauffeur, must rescue his employer's sons in this sequel.

War of the Worlds (PG-13)

Tom Cruise, Miranda Otto and Dakota Fanning

A contemporary retelling of H.G. Wells' classic novel, this sci-fi thriller depicts mankind's battle for its future against a catastrophic invasion from outer space.

Log on to the 100th Area Support Group's redesigned Web site

www.100asg.army.mil

to see the 'Training Times' in **COLOR**, plus complete telephone directories and breaking announcements